

**Financially Healthy Spirituality**  
**Giving with an eye towards eternity**  
**Luke 16:1-13**

**Luke 16**

**The Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

<sup>3</sup> “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— <sup>4</sup> I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

<sup>5</sup> “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

<sup>6</sup> “‘Nine hundred gallons<sup>[a]</sup> of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

<sup>7</sup> “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels<sup>[b]</sup> of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

<sup>8</sup> “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup> I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

<sup>13</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

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**Sermon Outline**

- I. Human beings were made for eternity
  - a. “What we do in this life, echoes into eternity.” –Maximus from the movie, *Gladiator*.
  - b. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that “God has set eternity in the hearts” of men and women.
- II. One area in particular that will echo into eternity is the way that we manage the wealth, resources and possessions that God has entrusted to us.
  - a. How can we gain an eternal perspective when it comes to our wealth and possessions?
  - b. Luke 16
- III. Unjust manager is commended because of his shrewdness
  - a. Shrewdness is having a sharp sense of judgment in times of crisis.
  - b. The manager lives with a sense of urgency, and uses his wealth and creativity make friends to secure his future (temporary future)
  - c. Jesus calls his disciples to live with a sense of urgency to make friends for eternity, using their wealth and creativity.
- IV. God views our wealth and possessions as a tool to make friends
  - a. We tend to view our stuff as treasures to be safeguarded, rather than tools to be leveraged for the kingdom
- V. God sees our wealth as a test of our faithfulness
  - a. If we can be faithful with a little, we will be faithful with more
  - b. God longs to offer us spiritual riches, but spiritual riches are contingent on one managing “worldly wealth” in a responsible way.

**Small Group Questions**

1. What thoughts, feelings, or questions do you have after reading this passage or listening to this sermon?
2. Why does the owner commend his money manager?
3. Read Luke 16:9. How have people used their money and stuff to make an eternal impact in your life?
4. If money were a test, how would you grade yourself thus far?
5. How can you do better on the money test?
6. Rich showed a picture of Gollum, a character from *Lord of the Rings*. Gollum is a picture of what happens to us when we become possessive with things. Is there

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an area of your life (or possession) that makes you relate to things like Gollum?  
If so, why do you think this is?

7. Why do you think so many people subscribe to a “if only” mindset, which believes that “if only we make more money, then we will become more generous.” Why is it rare that it actually happens?
8. Read Luke 16:13. What does your checkbook or your credit card statement say about you? What do these purchases say about your devotion? Is it to God or to stuff?
9. What are you going to do with your little bit of time and your little bit of money this week? How will you leverage it for something beyond this life?
10. What is your biggest takeaway from this series? How has it changed your perspective on money and spirituality?
11. Gather in groups of 2-3, share prayer requests, and pray for one another.